

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

1.0 NAME OF ACTION

Lewisburg/Bloomsburg Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC), Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Actions Environmental Assessment (EA). The conclusions in this finding are based on the Lewisburg/Bloomsburg AFRC EA, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Army proposes to construct an approximately 81,000-square-foot AFRC on undeveloped commercial property near Danville, Pennsylvania. The AFRC would include a training building, an organizational maintenance shop/area, maintenance support activity, an unheated storage building and parking to accommodate the increase in personnel resulting from the proposed action.

A Preferred Alternative site was evaluated and is located approximately 2 miles north of Danville, Montour County, Pennsylvania, along Pennsylvania Route 642 (Liberty Valley Road). Other candidate sites within a 20-mile radius of the Lewisburg and Bloomsburg facilities were evaluated and eliminated from consideration because of real estate costs and other selection criteria, such as minimum size, the existence of available utilities, location, topography, contamination, floodplains, site access, surrounding development and zoning. This relocation would require construction of new facilities for incoming units and organizations. The proposed area for construction of the AFRC includes 36 acres.

The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the project, but was evaluated throughout the EA in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements as a baseline for the assessment. Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not implement the proposed action. Training at the Lewisburg and Bloomsburg facilities would continue. The Lewisburg and Bloomsburg facilities would use their current inventory of facilities, though routine replacement or renovation actions could occur through normal military maintenance and construction procedures as circumstances independently warrant. Implementation of the No Action Alternative is not possible, however, because the BRAC recommendation has the force of law.

3.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

With the Preferred Alternative, potential impacts on natural and visual resources generally would occur within the physical boundaries of the Preferred Alternative site. No long-term adverse impacts on earth (*i.e.*, geology and topography) or land use are expected. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) would be provided to reduce soil erosion in accordance with local stormwater and erosion control regulations. Some potential Prime Farmland would be lost, but the analysis for the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form documents that the farmland does not require protection. No adverse impacts on utilities or the associated infrastructure would occur. Although there is currently a moratorium on new sewer connections, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is expected to allow the Valley Township Municipal Authority to grant a connection for the facility once a plan for addressing future increased loading is in place. If a connection is not available before construction, an alternative design using an on-site sewage system for wastewater disposal would be utilized. This system would be permitted by Valley Township, and designed in accordance with the applicable local, state, and federal guidelines. No wetland impacts are proposed. The results of a Phase I archaeological investigation of the Preferred Alternative site indicate no prehistoric or historic sites potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; therefore, there would be no adverse effects on cultural resources from the development of this site.

**Lewisburg/Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, Armed Forces Reserve Center Environmental
Assessment (EA)**

Minor adverse impacts on air, soils, water resources, and utilities would be reduced by implementing the BMPs and mitigation measures identified in the EA. The Preferred Alternative would not generate disproportionate adverse human or environmental health impacts on minority or low income populations. No adverse socioeconomic impacts on military or regional populations, the economy, employment, income, housing, community services, protection of children, or education would result from implementation of the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative would not have significant cumulative impacts on the project area.

With the No Action Alternative, no construction would take place. No long- or short-term changes to the environment would be expected because no change beyond routine training and maintenance activities would take place at the Lewisburg and Bloomsburg facilities. Unlike the No Action Alternative, the Preferred Alternative would meet the purpose and need for the BRAC action.

4.0 DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

This EA and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) were available for public examination and comment at the following locations:

Ms. Mona Garrett
99th Regional Support Command
99 Soldiers Lane
Coraopolis, PA 15108
(412) 604-8168

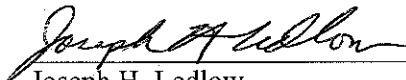
Thomas Beaver Free Library
205 Ferry Street
Danville, PA 17821
(570) 275-4180

The public comment period for this document began on February 25, 2009, and ended on March 26, 2009. A Notice of Availability was published in the *Danville News* on February 25, 2009, and sent to the government officials listed in Section 8.0 of the EA. All interested agencies, groups and individuals were invited to submit written comments on the EA and draft FNSI to the 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) within 30 days of the date of public notification of availability. No comments were received on the EA.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Based on information gathered during the preparation of the EA conducted in accordance with NEPA requirements, the Council on Environmental Quality and 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 651, I conclude that the environmental effects of the Lewisburg/Bloomsburg AFRC EA are not significant and that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

Reviewed By:


Joseph H. Ledlow
Colonel, US Army Reserve
99th RSC Engineers

Date: 2 April 2009